

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/854,617

Examiner

Melvin H. Pollack

Applicant(s)

FURUI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE dated 01 August 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17-25.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/4/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other see attached office action.


JASON CARDONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

MHP

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eric M. Parham on 03 October 2006.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 23. (Amended) A robot search engine registration method comprising the steps of:

mechanically accessing a web site via a communication network and obtaining a web page source stored at said web site;

accepting an access request from a robot of a robot search engine that prepares a web page search list; and

transmitting to said robot a keyword concerning said web page source;

wherein, when the access of said web page source is limited, and when access by said robot is not permitted, text data is transmitted;

the text data comprising metadata having an automatically generated statement describing the subject matter and type of web page source, a keyword indicative of the content of the web

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page source for preparing a search engine keyword index, and subscription information
describing how to gain access to the web page source.

Claim 24. (Amended) A storage medium on which input means of a computer stores a computer-readable program that permits said computer to perform:

a process for analyzing an access request received by a web server that is provided on a communication network and for determining a transmission source of said access request; and

a process for, when said transmission source of said access request comprises a robot of a robot search engine, transmitting a keyword concerning a web page source to said robot;

wherein said web page source is associated with said access request;

wherein, when the access of said web page source is limited, and when access by said robot is not permitted, said program transmits text data;

the text data comprising metadata having an automatically generated statement describing
the subject matter and type of web page source, a keyword indicative of the content of the web
page source for preparing a search engine keyword index, and subscription information
describing how to gain access to the web page source.

Claim 25. (Amended) A program ~~transmission apparatus~~ storage device comprising:

storage means for storing a computer-readable program that permits said computer to perform a process for analyzing an access request received by a web server that is provided on a communication network and for determining a transmission source of said access request, and

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a process for, when said transmission source of said access request comprises a robot of a robot search engine, transmitting a keyword concerning a web page source to said robot; and

transmission means for reading said program from said storage means and for transmitting said program;

wherein said web page source is associated with said access request;

wherein, when the access of said web page source is limited, and when an access by said robot is not permitted, said program transmits said text data;

the text data comprising metadata having an automatically generated statement describing the subject matter and type of web page source, a keyword indicative of the content of the web page source for preparing a search engine keyword index, and subscription information describing how to gain access to the web page source.

Claims 26-28 (canceled).

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the examiner has determined the combination to be novel and non-obvious.

5. The independent claims as currently drawn are related to content server groupings in which at least some of the information is restricted to one of at least two groups of subscribers. The system will recognize which information is restricted to which subscriber, as well as when a non-subscriber or search engine robot tries to access the information. Members of the latter group are given metadata information of a certain type, including information to populate a search engine and information to tell non-subscribers how to join.

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6. The combination of groupings, and of the replies to various responses, are not taught in the known art to the requisite level of detail. Search engines that engage restricted data are either forbidden or provided less information than the metadata described in the claims. The combination is novel and non-obvious for the reasons above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin H. Pollack whose telephone number is (571) 272-3887. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MHP

04 October 2006



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER